



Indiana receives \$10.4 million grant to assist dislocated RV workers

INDIANAPOLIS (September 10, 2008) – Governor Mitch Daniels received word this afternoon from Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao that a \$10.4 million national emergency grant he requested to assist dislocated workers in Indiana's RV industry has been approved. The special U.S. Department of Labor grant will pay for training in high-wage, high-demand occupations for permanently displaced workers impacted by the RV industry slowdown.

"I'm grateful to the Secretary of Labor for responding so quickly to the needs of Hoosiers in this industry. We'll be able to help a large number of workers receive the training they need to be qualified for other jobs in Indiana, such as those already available in the orthopedics industry in Warsaw," said Daniels.

Qualified workers will be eligible for up to \$6,000 that will enable them to enter into or complete an associate's degree program or a credential in high-wage, high-demand occupations. Supportive services for participants such as child care, transportation and books also will be paid for through the grant. Workers also are eligible for career counseling, computer skill development and customized referrals to local employers. A special Individual Training Account (ITA) will be established for each participant to use to pay for expenses related to the educational program.

Any RV industry worker in Indiana permanently dislocated from their job is eligible to apply. Those interested in submitting an application should visit their local WorkOne office. The grant will be administered through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

The federal grant is in addition to a \$3 million ITA grant previously announced by Daniels for displaced RV workers.



September 9, 2008- Governor Daniels visited with Versailles Tire and Towing employees Terry and Gary during a visit to Ripley County.



September 11, 2008- Governor Daniels spoke with local residents during his stop at The Corner Depot in Bluffton.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor issues latest performance report

September 12, 2008– More than 70 executive branch entities have developed metrics to gauge their performance, and the latest report that monitors state government progress shows that overall, results are improving even as performance targets are raised.

The performance measurement report for January to June 2008, the seventh issued, shows that nearly 45 percent of agency results are in the top-performing category, compared to 16 percent when reporting began in 2005. Nearly 300 performance measures are monitored across state government. The governor initiated metrics and the reports to bring more accountability and transparency to state government.

The report also includes information about significant events that impacted agency operations during the six-month period and reviews some individual agency measures. Among specific agency programs:

- The Indiana Office of Technology has saved \$14.8 million over a 25-month period from June 2006 to June 2008 on computer purchases by negotiating bulk pricing.
- Through the Buy Indiana program, the Indiana Department of Administration has purchased goods and services valued at more than \$6.6 billion with Indiana companies, including \$1.25 billion in the six-month reporting period.
- Indiana Tobacco Prevention & Cessation has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of phone calls to its "quitline" now that it is promoting the program more because it is receiving additional cigarette tax funds.
- The Department of Natural Resources has surpassed its goal for the number of wildlife and forest acres in Indiana under protection. The number of protected acres has increased from 580,000 in the first quarter of 2006 to 616,734.

Targets for performance are set at green, yellow and red levels. Green represents superior performance, yellow means needs improvement and red is unsatisfactory performance. In the first six-month report of 2005, 62 percent of results were rated unsatisfactory; now, 28 percent are in that category.



September 10, 2008- The governor stopped at the Waynedale BMV in Fort Wayne to visit with employees and customers.

Check out the latest performance report [here](#).
View past reports [here](#).



September 11, 2008- Governor Daniels shared breakfast with Shelia Burner and Sue Ann Mitchell of Warsaw at the American Table.

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? Click [here](#) for more!

International auto parts maker locates in Versailles

Sept. 9, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from international auto parts maker Belletech this week to announce the company's plans to locate a new manufacturing operation in Versailles, creating more than 100 new jobs by 2012.

The company, a supplier of plastic parts and automotive glass to Honda and other automobile manufacturers, will invest more than \$4 million to build and equip a 40,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in the Versailles Industrial Park located along U.S. 421 south of the 1,700-person southeast Indiana town.

"Honda's choice to build its new North American production facility in Greensburg is creating more new opportunities in Indiana. Honda suppliers are already bringing hundreds of new jobs to great small towns like Winchester and New Castle, and now Belletech is doing the same in Versailles," said Daniels.

The company, a joint venture between AGC Flat Glass North America, Inc., PPG Securities Industries, Inc., and AGC-Takahashi Co. Ltd., will begin constructing the new facility later this year and plans to begin hiring managers, production associates and administrative specialists in 2009 ahead of the facility's completion in mid 2009. Once operational, the company will supply automotive glass assemblies to the new Honda production facility in nearby Greensburg.

"As a just-in-time, sequenced supplier to Honda Indiana, it was imperative that we have a location within an hour drive of the Indiana plant," said Mark McIntyre, vice president of Belletech. "After consideration of several sites, both in Ohio and Indiana, Indiana became the clear choice. The favorable business climate, support from state and local governments and our positive interaction with the community made Versailles, Indiana the best choice for our new manufacturing operation."

Indiana exports out pace national average in 2007, set new record

Sept. 11, 2008- Indiana's exports grew at a pace faster than the national average in 2007, setting a new record of \$25.9 billion in exports from the Hoosier state.

A new study, conducted for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation by the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, shows the state topped the previous record set in 2006 by more than 14 percent, placing Indiana in the top 12 exporting states in the nation.

"Our efforts to 'in-source' jobs and build relationships with businesses around the globe, combined with our continuing strength in exports, are creating more jobs and economic opportunities in Indiana," said Nathan Feltman, Indiana Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Exports to eight of Indiana's top 10 foreign trade partners increased in 2007 with gains in exports to Germany and Brazil helping to fuel Indiana's record-setting year with more than 50 percent growth in exports to both countries. Exports to China also boosted the state's annual export tally with an increase of 30 percent from a year ago. In total, Indiana exported goods to 198 countries in 2007. The top 10 destinations for Hoosier products in 2007 were Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, Japan, Brazil, Australia and Netherlands.

"Indiana's connection to the global economy continues to become stronger," said Tim Slaper, director of economic analysis at the Indiana Business Research Center. "Buoyed by a rate of export growth that was above the national average, Indiana's rank in export sales moved from 13th in 2006 to 12th in 2007."

The vehicle and machinery industries remained the state's top export commodities, followed by pharmaceuticals. Since 2001, Indiana's pharmaceutical industry has seen a 23 percent average annual growth rate in exports driven in large part by demand from the European market where four of the top five export destinations are located.



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A look ahead...

...Next week Governor Daniels will visit Lakeville, Peru and Kokomo.